PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders—by 6th December for completion of the unfinished works on the London and North-Western Railway, in two contracts, one for about 4 miles 12 chains, the other for about 3 miles 49 chains, with earthwork, masonry, rails, &c.; by 4th December, for the erection of a block of ten coke-ovens at New-cross Station, on the Brighton Railway; by a date not specified, for various gas fittings for Birmingham Gaol; by 21st inst., for alterations, additions, and repairs of Houghton Mill-bridge, Lancashire; by 15th, for laying down drains at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge; and by 29th, for lighting part of Tottenham with gas or naphtha, or partly both, till April, 1849.

SANITARY PROGRESS.—The Ely correspondent of the *Cambridge Chronicle*, after summing up a goodly display of facts of the strongest description with regard to the "nuisances of a dangerous character which abound from one end of the city to the other," and have increased the mortality of Ely above other places,—adds that, notwithstanding, "one of our surveyors has the effrontery to say the Health of Towns Bill is not wanted here." The Government inspectors have been requested to investigate evidence highly favourable it is said, for the possibility of carrying out a proper system of drainage.——The guardians of the North Witchford Union have resolved to carry out the provisions of the Removal of Nuisances Act, and have been soliciting reports of nuisances.——The West Ham guardians are also astir, and so are the inhabitants of Stratford ward in reference to nuisances.——In Islington, Clerkenwell, and other crowded districts of the metropolis, a great many summonses have been taken out under the Sanitary Act against house owners, for insufficient water-closets, &c., for tenants. ——The Brecknock guardians and street trust are carrying out the Nuisances Act, and requesting co-operation.——So are the parochial authorities of Cockermouth, the guardians of Workington, and the Carlisle council. At Carlisle steps are also being taken by the council for the application of the Health Act to the city.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT IN GRACECHURCH-STREET, CITY.—It is proposed to lessen the danger arising to foot-passengers from the great pressure of vehicles at the corner of Fenchurch-street and Gracechurch-street, where stands St. Benet's Church, by opening the lower part of the tower and allowing passengers to pass through it, by which means the present foot-pavement may be added to the road. The project has been mooted some time, but stood still for want of money. The Common Council had voted 300*l.* towards it, but the remainder could not be obtained. The City Sewers Commission have now voted 100*l.* for the same object, and the work will probably be commenced shortly.

NAVY TIMBER CONTRACTS.—A correspondent of the *Times* calls the attention of the timber trade seriously to the following questions:—1. Whether there are no merchants of sufficient spirit and capital to compete with the present contractors? 2. Whether the connections of the present firm are absolutely necessary to the obtaining of the required supply, and that no others have equal connections? 3. Whether the words at the bottom of the Government advertisement, "the Commissioners are not bound to accept the lowest tender," have not often prevented many large firms from sending in tenders, knowing it to be a waste of time? He also asks the difference in price between the tenders made and those accepted.

BLIND BUILDERS.—The following is a list of the tenders delivered for the proposed Odd Fellows' Institution, at Birmingham; Mr. Alexander, architect. The quantities *were supplied*.

Orchard	£2,900	0	0
Walker and Wilkins	2,695	0	0
Brooks	2,619	0	0
Bradshaw	2,484	6	10
Henfield	2,483	5	0
Turner	2,476	0	0
Branson and Gwither	2,460	0	0
Webb	2,458	0	0
Upton	2,393	18	10½
Jackaman	2,292	7	6
Mountford	2,056	14	4

INTERESTING TO UPHOLSTERERS AND BUILDERS.—Mr. Lydiard, a builder, became bankrupt after having given an acceptance for 40*l.* to Mr. Acutt, an upholsterer, in part payment of five coffee-room tables, made to order of Lydiard, for Mr. Cooke, the proprietor of the Three Cups Tavern, who pursued Mr. Acutt for the tables, which had been delivered to Mr. Cooke, but returned to Mr. Acutt for alterations, arranged with Mr. Lydiard to cost 2*l.* 10*s.* Mr. Baron Platt gave a verdict for the plaintiff, Mr. Cooke, on the ground that as there had clearly been a delivery of the tables to the plaintiff, there was not any property in them in Lydiard, and therefore they could not constitute a set off against the defendant's claim upon the bankrupt.

POISON FROM LEADEN WATER PIPES, &c. The family of Louis Philippe are said to have narrowly escaped being poisoned by the impregnation of water from leaden conduit pipes and reservoirs at Claremont. The mischief was first reported to have arisen from copper, an equally poisonous metal. The family have been obliged to remove to Richmond. The metropolitan correspondent of the *Liverpool Albion*, gossipping on things in general, expresses his belief that the right reason of the removal has been alleged, inasmuch as Claremont "is in the hands of the Woods and Forests, and that is quite sufficient to ensure its being in the worst possible state, at the largest possible expense."

THE DECORATIVE ART SOCIETY.—On the 25th ult. a paper was read by Mr. Laugher, which embraced a review of the transactions of the society during the last session. It stated that twelve important topics had been treated at length during that period, and these had reference to the occurrences of the time at which they had been produced. They were described as remarkable for freedom from merely retrospective views and historic data, and as being distinguished by a great proportion of inductive reasoning upon palpable every-day experiences. It was affirmed that the instructive remarks on discussions had been generally so well-timed and so practical in their nature, that the society had been enabled to promulgate ideas which would stimulate in their echoes and reverberations the progressive enlightenment and advance in appreciation of the decorative arts. Each paper was referred to, and the details—for the most part recorded by us—afforded matter for several useful comments as they were passed under review. Mr. Laugher also read a paper "On the study of design from vegetal growth," illustrated by drawings on a large scale, recently made by members of the society in the Botanic Gardens at Kew.

BOILER EXPLOSIONS.—It gives us great pleasure to notice the praiseworthy exertions now being made by the ironmasters in South Staffordshire to prevent accidents by steam boilers, which unhappily of late years have been of so frequent and disastrous occurrence in this neighbourhood both to life and property. We learn, that in addition to the many precautions already adopted, the ironmasters are entering into a union generally to employ an inspecting engineer, to examine and report monthly to them upon the working condition of all their boilers and engines. This plan is carried out to a great extent, and with perfect success, we believe, in Cornwall, and although the low price of coals may be considered a reason, in a pecuniary point of view at least, why it need not be followed out to the same extent in this district, we are sure that great improvements may be made, and that in a commercial point of view it would be found of much value. It must also prove very satisfactory to the foremen and engineers employed in the different establishments, since, by the adoption of the proposed plan, much responsibility will be taken from them in cases of accident, and the rumoured interference on the part of the Legislature would also be rendered unnecessary.—*Birmingham Journal.*

INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.—On Monday, the 20th, the opening meeting, Earl de Grey will take the chair, and will present the Royal and other medals awarded during last session. A paper will be read on the cathedral church of St. Isaac, recently erected at St. Petersburgh.

THE MASTERSHIP OF THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—We mentioned a short time ago that, on the report of Mr. Wilson, the late director of the Somerset House School of Design, made without any previous conference with Mr. M'Manus, to give him the opportunity of rebutting any prejudicial statements which might have been offered to Mr. Wilson, Mr. M'Manus had been dismissed, after five years' services and the annual eulogiums of the leading members of his committee. Our readers will be astonished to hear now, that Mr. Wilson has himself been appointed to fill the vacancy thus created!

ELECTRICAL EXPLOSION OF BOILERS.—A writer in the *New York Tribune*, who attributes the explosion of steam boilers to the same force which issues from the atmospheric vapours as lightning and with identical effects, suggests the adaptation of proper conductors, especially copper tubes, to the nozzle or valve chamber of the boiler. The explosive principle is disengaged from the steam, he adds, as it is let into the cavity of the nozzle on the opening of the steam valve, when the pressure that kept it combined with the steam is in great part taken off. The suggestion appears to be a really feasible, as well as new one, though it has long been known or believed that the explosive principle is not steam itself, but rather its constituent gases decomposed by the electrical forces, and especially when the *safety*-valve is opened. That the electrical forces *are* generated in the escape of steam from the opened valve was sometime since remarkably proved by Mr. Armstrong, who thence invented his hydro-electrical machine, a battery which appeared to possess all the intensity of the electrical charge with all the sustainment or continuity of the galvanic circle, and the powers and merits of which we do believe are not yet half developed. In connection with these discoveries, this new suggestion may lead to important results.

SELF-EDUCATION.—The learning that we acquire at school is but the beginning of education, and because we have left school our education is not complete, but only begun, for what we have there learned, we have yet to learn the application and practice of, in all the requirements and duties of life; and now it is that we must commence the most important part of education, self-education, the applying what others have taught us to the teaching ourselves, the carrying on what others have begun for us to our own self-improvement. Now, in reality, begins true education, for whatever a man learns himself, he always knows better than what he learns from others. Not that, therefore, the help and the advice of others is to be disregarded at any time, for we must use all the aids of men or books that we can. But we must set ourselves to work upon ourselves, and we must no longer be children dependent upon others to teach us, but striving to teach ourselves. When we were young our food was provided for us, but even then we ate and digested it for ourselves: now we must not only do this, but we must earn it also, acquire it for ourselves, and so in understanding and in knowledge become men.—*The Working Man's Charter.*

FOOT SUSPENSION-BRIDGE, SUN TAVERN FIELDS, SHADWELL.—A foot suspension-bridge has just been erected, under the direction of Mr. Wm. Dredge, C.E., across the Ropery-grounds, in the Sun Tavern Fields, parish of Shadwell, to form a communication between the Commercial-road and the London Docks. The bridge is built of iron, with the exception of the roadway, which is planked with 2½-inch yellow battens. The clear span of the bridge is 91 feet, the width of the roadway 7 feet 6 inches. Each chain, as it rests upon the tower of support, is composed of 8½-inch round bars of iron, and four bars, each ½-inch in diameter; this gives an aggregate section at each end of 6·52 square inches of iron in the chains, the breaking strain of which is 195 tons, being equivalent to 132 tons placed upon the platform. The weight, however, which the bridge will bear in safety is only one-third of this, or 44 tons. The holdfasts to the retaining chains are held in their places by being securely imbedded, each in about 10 tons of concrete. The platform, when extremely loaded, will hold about 150 persons.—*Mechanics' Magazine.*

For Info on OCR and PDF Compression go to ThePaperlessOffice.org